



The Belleville Shell gas station, located at Belleville Road and the I-94 Service Drive, recently priced regular gas for \$2.29 a gallon.

Local station fights high prices at pump

Andrea King
Staff Writer

As summer temperatures continue to increase, so do gas prices.

Recently, oil prices hit a record high per barrel, which most likely means a hike in gasoline prices.

According to the American Automobile Association (AAA) Michigan fuel gauge index and Jim Rink, spokesperson for AAA, motorists are now paying an average of about \$2.15 a gallon for regular unleaded gas. Last week, motorists were paying about \$2.26 a gallon, Rink said.

"When the demand is higher, the price gets higher," he said. "A lot of it has to do with the price of crude oil so when that goes up the price of gasoline goes up."

Many area gas stations would not comment on the effects of rising fuel prices, but Kader Alcodray, owner of the Belleville Shell, located at 11530 Belleville Road, said the increased prices have certainly impacted business.

"Higher prices have hit our ability to sustain ourselves and we are losing business because of it," he said. "We base our prices on our competition. We have to stay with it, but in this business we're at a point where we're barely making a profit."

"I feel the only companies making money now are the big oil companies themselves," he added.

Some analysts are predicting that the recent spike is the result of fear over whether there will be enough oil to meet future demand, but Alcodray, who has been in the business for more than 18 years, believes there will be ample gas in the future.

"With all the supplies in the world, I believe there is plenty of gas for years to come. I laugh when people blame most of it on OPEC," he said. "The U.S. receives their oil from South America, Canada and the Middle East and we are still the cheapest in the world, which is amazing. We're the cheapest because of the social economic pressures from other countries. If I based gas prices consistent with inflation, it would be at \$3 a gallon."

As to the direction of gas prices in the future, that's anyone's guess.

"It's always difficult to predict," said Rink. "The last two summer analysis predict \$3, but we haven't reached that yet. We just have to wait and see, but \$2 will probably be the norm for awhile."

"Over the past year we haven't seen gas prices less than \$1.30 a gallon and over the next two years it could be more than \$3 a gallon," said Alcodray.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on Tuesday July 19, 2005 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan.

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

Parcel number V125-83-064-99-0003-717 approximately 1.16 acres is located on the west side of Belleville Road between Tyler Road and I-94. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below:

The applicant is requesting special use approval. A special use approval is required for drive thru facilities in accordance with Section 12.03(d) of the Zoning Ordinance. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00p.m., July 19, 2005, the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: July 7, 2005

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS
OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The BOARD OF REVIEW of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road on Tuesday, July 19th, 2005 at 11:00 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting will be to correct clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact.

Property assessments can only be changed for :

1. Homestead exemption status.
2. Poverty exemptions.

Any property owner who believes they qualify under items 1 or 2 should call Van Buren Township Assessing Department at 734.699.8946 prior to July 19, 2005.

Joannie Payne, CMC
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: July 7, 2005
July 14, 2005

Concilman touts development record

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Mayor Pro-tem Randolph Gear said bringing jobs to Romulus and increasing the level of development in the city would be the focus of an eighth term on the Romulus City Council should he be elected November.

"I think that development is the key to a lot of issues we're facing – building up tax base, (and) creating jobs for residents," he said. I think we're all hoping for a better economy all around, but Michigan in general has been hit pretty hard. But Romulus is in a better position than other municipalities because we still have land that can be developed."

Gear, 53, said he believes Romulus can become a business center for all of Wayne County – similar to what Southfield or Troy are to Oakland County.

"I think we're in a great location by the airport," he said. "One of my goals during the next four years is to make sure we take advantage of every opportunity to develop our communi-

ty. It's the right thing to do by residents. And I really think if we get the right mix of businesses, it can happen."

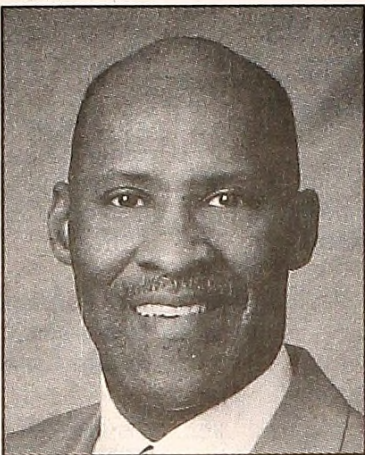
Gear was first elected to a two-year council term in 1987. Since then, he has been re-elected repeatedly and is currently mayor pro-tem – the highest vote getter of all council candidates in the last election. He is employed by Detroit Public Schools, where he is an elementary school principal. Prior to being named principal, Gear was a teacher for 23 years.

Gear said being a principal has helped him navigate the sometimes-rough waters of conducting city business.

"Running a school is like running a business," he said. "And Romulus is a business. We have to look at it that way so we can provide public services, recreation, and support for our residents."

Another concern Gear has is keeping elected officials and city administrators in touch with residents.

"This has never really been a problem, but we can always do a little better," he said. "It's crucial



Gear

that residents know what is going on in the city. And we need to have their input to be successful. And, it's always important that we remain available and open to all constituent concerns."

Gear has a reputation for knocking on every door in Romulus to find out what residents want, and he would like to see the city do the same, he said.

When Gear is not managing a school, he's often in school himself. He holds numerous advanced degrees in education from both the University of Michigan and Wayne State University, where he is completing doctoral work in education management.

This year, 16 people are seeking seven council seats. That field will be narrowed to 14 in the Sept. 13 primary election. The general election is Nov. 8



The Freight House, seen here in December 2004, had fallen into disarray before it was repaired.

House - A part of Romulus history

FROM PAGE 1

building fell into disrepair and was slated for demolition in 2002, until the historical commission stepped in.

"It all started with a little luck," Lewkowicz said. "I showed the postcard to a man named Dan Doheny, and he said the building was still up at the lumber yard. So I drove by – I didn't think too much about it until I saw demolition equipment near the building. I ended up asking the owner of the building to let it stand – he had wanted to clean up the property for development."

Tom Fraser, who owned the building, donated it to the city, which then secured \$50,000 in block grant funding to restore the house to its former glory. The funds also provided an avenue for the building to be moved and added to the historical park. Department of Public Service workers, commission members and volunteers completely renovated the building, and about six months later, the freight house was completely restored.

This, Lewkowicz said, took a little more planning than expected. Workers did a paint

analysis on the building and matched the original colors with new paint – Buff and Rustic Red.

Lewkowicz said the restoration turned out better than expected, and will provide residents with a sense of city history for years to come.

"We're going to be using it for a lot of things at the park," he said. "We didn't have an enclosed building at the park for events, and now we can use this building for a number of activities. Councilman (William) Wadsworth is scheduled to have some bingo events here; the bingo games benefit replacing the dog shelter. We think this will open up a lot of opportunities to get people to go to the park – which we think is somewhat underutilized."

The ribbon-cutting event is open to the public and admission is free. A full range of activities – including a demonstration of telegraph use and a tour of a 1940s caboose – are planned. Historical Commission member Terry Bird will unveil a model of the Romulus Railroad Complex as it looked in the early 20th century. Face painters and clowns will be on hand to entertain children.

GM - 2,500 still in Romulus

FROM PAGE 1

GM is still a big part of the city – they are going to make a \$34 million investment in the (Romulus) Engine Plant."

Currently, a majority of the automaker's blue-collar workforce is shuttered due to the yearly two-week shutdown, which gives plants the opportunity to re-tool for the next model year, Ippolito said.

General Motors will still have a big presence in Romulus even after the 180 workers are transferred to Ypsilanti. The

Romulus Engine Plant, which builds engines for several trucks, is located on Ecorse Road. With about 2,500 workers, it is the largest GM engine plant in the United States.

Still, city leaders are worried about the state of the automotive industry on a statewide basis.

"Of course, we can never see the future, or how that will affect Romulus specifically," Miller said.

"But we have a trade deficit that is hurting us right now. If that can be fixed, then things will improve."

Break-ins - Suspects retained

FROM PAGE 1

The owner of Payless Wireless told police he would have to take an inventory before he knew exactly what was taken from his shop.

The suspects were arraigned Tuesday at 29th District Court in Wayne. Two of the suspects, 17-year-old Robert Warren O'Neal

of Inkster and 17-year-old Diontay McMillon of Romulus, were charged with breaking and entering a business are being held on a \$10,000 cash bond. They are scheduled for a preliminary examination on June 12 at the 29th District Court. The other two suspects, both 16-year-old juveniles, were remanded to the Wayne County juvenile system.

2 drown as storm strikes Belleville Lake

Two men swimming in Belleville Lake drowned Monday night after a severe storm ripped through the area. The victims—32-year-old Jeffery Todd Woods of Belleville and 28-year-old Trent Rush of Detroit—were found Tuesday morning close to a sandbar on the west side of Van Buren beach.

According to Sgt. Greg Laurain, a detective with the Van Buren Township Public Safety Department, a 911 call was made at approximately 8:35 p.m. Monday by a 24-year-old Canton Township

resident who survived the incident.

"The friend of the victims told police they were docked and hanging out in the knee-deep water when the storm came on," he said. "The storm then uprooted the boats about 100-200 feet and they were not able to get back to them in time. She also said that even though she was a good swimmer, she had a difficult time and found herself with water over her head."

The witness said she tried to make her way over to Rush, who was not a good swimmer, but

quickly lost sight of him.

Woods attempted to swim over to a boat, but did not make it, according to officials.

"The friend survived because of other boaters in the water who happened to get her in time," said Laurain. "Other witnesses told us that she would have been a victim as well if it wasn't for the other boaters who rescued her."

The township dive team located the first body at approximately 8:30 a.m. on Monday and the second body at 11:30 a.m. in about 7 to 10 feet of water.



Summer kicks

The Archway Co. in Romulus provided excited Wick Elementary Students with boxes of "Summer Fun" goodies so they can enjoy a safe summer. Plant employees provided a host of games and toys for children during a presentation to Wick principal Debbie Juriga before the end of the school year. Bob Stone, the manager of the automotive supplier, said he was pleased with his employees' efforts. "I am happy to be able to bring so many fun activities to students," he said. About 100 students received summer fun items. Here, materials engineer Dawn Portwood (second row) poses with students Ben Camilleri, Erics Ross, Diamond Chandler, Jasmine Williams, Carman Plan, Renesha Chandler, Tiara Woody, Sally Thomas and administrative assistant Stephane Ryalls. In the third row, the students are joined by Juriga, Jamal Kent and Stone.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD JUNE 13, 2005 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ROMULUS CITY HALL, 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Pro-Tem Debbie Romak.
Present: LeRoy Burcroff, William Crova, Charles Miller, Michael Prybyla, Debbie Romak, William Wadsworth.

Excused: Randolph Gear.
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Alan Lambert, Mayor
Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
Pamela Morrison-Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-213

2. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Miller to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held June 06, 2005, with corrections.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak.
Nays - None.
Abstain - Wadsworth.
Motion Carried.

05-214

3A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to concur with Cyndi Lyon, AICP, City Planner and grant approval of PC-2005-015 Metro World Center Planned Development Agreement, Material Modification Amendment #3 conditioned upon the following:

1. Special Legal Counsel approval of the final language prior to recording.
2. Restating of the agreement incorporating all three Amendments.
3. The corrected table of dimensional standards with a revised date of May 27, 2005 being incorporated.
4. Recording of the Restated Agreement with the Wayne County Register of Deeds.
5. Compliance with Langworthy Strader LeBlanc and Associates, Inc. letter dated May 16, 2005 and Orchard Hiltz & McCliment letter dated May 16, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-215

3B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Prybyla to concur with the recommendation of the City Planning commission and grant Special Land Use approval of PC-2004-041; DP#80-04599-0001-703, Sunoco Properties deep injection well for non-hazardous material subject to the following:

1. Concurrence with the Planning Commission on the reduction in required set back of the well to 1.730 feet from the residential property line across Ecorse.
2. Concurrence with the Planning Commission on the reduction in required set back of well from non-confirming residential property to 348 feet.
3. Concurrence with the Planning Commission on the waiver of required 50 foot greenbelt due to unique to unique operating safety and maintenance characteristics of the site provided 38 additional 6 foot evergreens are planted between well and 1-94, and planting beds be provided along entrance at Ecorse Road.
4. The facility be operated in accordance with all county, State and Federal Regulations.
5. The facility be operated in accordance with the performance standard of Section 16.05 and 16.06 of the Zoning Ordinance.
6. The City Fire Department be provided with up-to-date information on the facility and any hazardous materials on site.
7. The City Council consider establishing a fee to monitor compliance of approvals on an annual basis.
8. Permit annual City inspection.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-216

3C. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to approve and accept the Senior Alliance requests for its FY 2006 Annual Implementation Plan

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-217

4A. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to adopt a resolution congratulating Ron and Mary Glotfelty on their 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Miller to accept the Chairpersons report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-218

5A. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with the Administration and grant authorization to submit an application to the State of Michigan for our Emergency Management Performance Grant program reimbursement.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-219

5B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Miller to concur with the administration and adopt the a revised fee schedule with an effective date of July 1, 2005 for Water & Sewer Rates and charges pursuant to our Water and Sewer Ordinance (no increase in water and sewer rates passed on to residents). Rate schedule on file in the Clerks Office.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously

05-220

5C. Motion by Miller, supported by Burcroff to concur with the administration and grant authorization for the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an Amendment to the Combined Downriver Watershed Inter-Municipality Committee Agreement entitled Amendment No. 1.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-221

5D. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to concur with the administration and grant authorization for the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an Amendment to the Ecorse Creek Watershed Inter-Municipality Committee Agreement entitled Amendment No. 1

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-222

SE. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to award Bid 04/05-33 Two (2) Digital 35MM Cameras to Adray Appliance Center.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-223

5F1. Motion by Miller, supported by Crova to authorize the payment of \$8,289.18 to RA. Contracting for Bid 04/05-01 Pavement Marking Program.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-224

5F2. Motion by Miller, supported by Wadsworth to authorize the extension of Bid 04/05-01

Pavement Marking Program with R.S. Contracting at a per linear price of \$.045.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-225

5G. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Miller to introduce Budget Amendment 04/05-28:

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General Fund				
Expenditures				
303-2310-723.90-10	Project Costs	32,000	5,400	37,400
		AVAILABLE	APPROPRIATE	BALANCE
Fund Balance				
303-0000-390.00-00	Fund Balance	22,755	-5,400	17,355

To appropriate funds for carpet installation at the Library approved by the Building Authority at a meeting held June 3, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes-Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-226

5H. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to introduce Budget Amendment 0405-27:

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General Fund				
Expenditures				
101-1210-712.70-20	Salaries & Wages-Mayor	152,040	1,500	153,540
101-1210-712.70-27	Comp Absences	200	750	950
101-1210-712.72-30	Retirement	13,819	3,413	17,232
101-1210-712.72-10	Social Security	9,439	140	9,579
101-1210-712.72-20	Medicare	2,208	33	2,241
101-1210-712.72-80	Worker's Comp	1,141	16	1,157
101-1310-713.70-20	Salaries & Wages-Clerk	206,302	5,570	211,872
101-1310-713.70-25	HMO Special Pay	1,500	400	1,900
101-1310-713.72-10	Social Security	13,640	370	14,010
101-1310-713.72-20	Medicare	3,190	87	3,277
101-1310-713.72-80	Worker's Comp	1,652	41	1,693
101-1320-713.70-20	Salaries & Wages-			
101-1320-713.70-20	Elections	35,354	770	36,124
101-1320-713.70-25	HMO Special Pay	1,000	410	1,410
101-1320-713.72-80	Worker's Comp	311	158	469
101-1320-713.7110	Social Security	2,583	73	2,656
101-1320-713.72.20	Medicare	602	17	619
101-2110-713.70-20	Salaries & Wages			
101-2110-713.70-20	Assessor	262,805	4,000	266,805
101-2110-713.70-25	HMO Special Pay	12,500	(11,000)	1,500
101-2110-721.72-40	Health Insurance	34,000	30,000	64,000
101-2210-722.70-25	HMO Special Pay	250	589	839
101-2310-723.70-20	Salaries & Wages-Finance	366,483	3,700	370,183
101-2310-723.70-25	HMO Special Pay	7,500	(6,000)	1,500
101-2310-723.70-27	Comp Absences	7,000	6,000	13,000
101-2310.723.72-40	Health Insurance	73,561	10,500	84,061
101-2310.723.72-10	Social Security	23,932	229	24,161
101-2310.723.72-20	Medicare	5,597	54	5,651
101-2310.723.72-80	Worker's Comp	2,906	27	2,933
101-3110-731.70-20	Salaries & Wages-Police	3,850,355	100,000	3,950,355
101-3110-731.71-10	Overtime	485,000	95,000	580,000

Continued on page 8

A 'world' of art

Jewelry maker travels from Bangkok to join local art show

Scott Spielman
Editor

Art in the Park in Plymouth could be a springboard for Pamela Yang.

It's the first art fair the 35-year-old artist has attended - as a vendor - and she's traveling quite a ways to take part.

She'll journey all the way from Bangkok, Thailand.

Yang creates finely detailed jewelry, a fact that still surprises her and some of her friends.

"When I was a teenager, I was very good in folding origami and I would make all of these little paper ornaments," she said. "You know, I have quite a temper and short patience, but with origami friends were surprised that I had the patience and diligence to do it, and in very great detail."

She forgot about that, though, until she was sent by the company she works for to live in Chicago. That was in 2000.

"I saw lots of accessories," she

said. "Many gorgeous, but super expensive. And I wished I could change this or that about it - like if only the color were bluer, or this one had a green bead in it, it would be nicer."

Her interest soon took on a new form. She started to take beading classes and read beading books. Soon she was hooked, working late into the night after work. She uses all forms of materials; she said she sees the potential for jewelry in just about everything, while she's shopping. She spends every spare minute working on jewelry in her home studio in Bangkok.

"My husband would complain, but he could see how much I loved it and how it relieved my work stress," she said.

Since she worked full time, though - she is employed by a company called Unilever (known domestically as Helene Curtis) in brand management and marketing - she could only make a few pieces, which her friends and

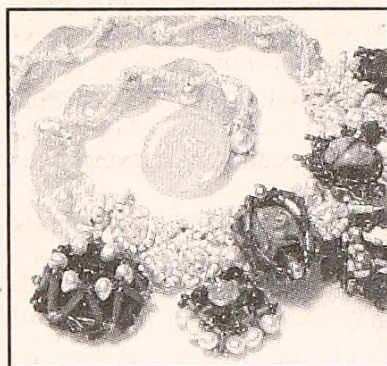
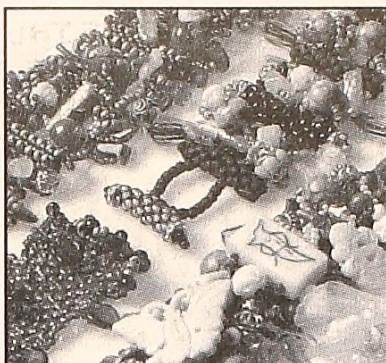
colleagues bought.

Her hobby took another step one day when she visited a shop in Evanston, IL. The owner of the shop asked her where she had purchased the beaded bracelet around her wrist and when she found out that Yang had made it herself, she asked if she would make some for her to sell at the shop.

That was the beginning, she said.

She started her hobby in 2001, and hopes to make a go of it professionally, too. That desire has increased in the past two years, she said, as her job has grown more and more stressful. It requires a lot of traveling, too - she's visited more than 25 countries since she started to work at Unilever.

"I finally came to a point when I'd wake up every morning and dread coming to work," she said. "I said to myself: 'Hey, I will only live once, so I better spend my life doing what I love.'"



Pamela Yang creates intricate beaded jewelry and will sell her creations at Art in the Park this weekend.

Her husband has been supportive of that goal, and her company has, too. They have let her take a career break to give her time to turn her hobby into a full time 'job.'

She found the Art in the Park on the internet, researching potential art fairs. Since she was familiar with the state - she and her husband had visited several times in the three years they lived in Chicago - she decided to try to get involved. She said she doesn't know quite what to

expect from the crowd, but hopes to get a good response.

"If I get a positive reaction, maybe I'll have the guts to turn this hobby of mine into a permanent, full-time career," she said.

BACK PAIN?

A free report is now available to local back pain sufferers that is entitled, "How To Eliminate Most Back Pains Without Exercise, Medication, And Surgery." For your free copy, call 1-888-808-4299. (Toll-Free 24-Hour Recorded Message)

Police still seek suspect in Belleville armed robbery

Police officials continue to search for an armed robber who held up a gas station last week in downtown Belleville.

According to Police Chief Gene Taylor, a man entered the Citgo Station located at 496 Main St. at about 7:30 p.m. on Monday, showed a handgun and left with cigarettes, a small amount of cash and instant lottery tickets.

The man, who fled on foot, is described as a white male with a slim build, between 5-feet, 8-inches to 5-feet, 10-inches tall and has sandy-brown hair. The suspect was seen wearing a tri-colored baseball cap with a yellow bill, blue front panel and white back, along with a navy blue t-shirt, blue-jean shorts, white socks, dark colored tennis shoes and a silver or gold chain necklace. He also displayed a

silver or nickel shotgun barreled handgun, according to police.

Officials are also investigating the possibility that the thief is the same man suspected in robberies that occurred earli-

er this month in Northville Township, Canton Township and Westland.

Anyone with information regarding this crime is asked to contact Crpl. Ken Voigt of the Belleville Police Department at

734-699-2710 or 734-699-2395.

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Hanna from Norway, 16 yrs. Likes skiing, swimming, dancing and art. Hanna hopes to join a drama club while in the USA.

Klaus from Germany, 17 yrs. Loves camping and playing soccer. Klaus' dream has been to spend a school year in the USA.

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OPINION

A well deserved thanks

Communities throughout Michigan are laboring over reduced budgets and looking at the possibility of eventually cutting back services. Normally, the first things to get pushed aside are some of the things we all enjoy – community events and festivals.

You certainly wouldn't see that in western Wayne County, though, where a number of volunteers and groups have stepped up to the plate to ensure that these things go on, anyway.

The examples are prevalent, even if you only look back a week or so.

The annual fireworks celebration in the City of Wayne – which was brought back by a community fund drive a year ago – returned in all its glory and a group of community minded people put on a new fundraiser at the top of the parking deck to coincide with the event.

The City of Westland pulled off another successful Summer Festival, which came to close with a delayed fireworks celebration Monday night (because Mother Nature provided some fireworks of her own, before that). That event couldn't take place without the work of dozens of volunteers from the Festival Committee themselves to all their helping hands.

The Fourth of July Parades in Northville and Plymouth were among the best around, too. Fred Hill, who formed the Fred Hill Briefcase Brigade and who came up with the idea to start the Plymouth parade at 7:30 a.m., should again be commended for an excellent show. It's always amazing to see the streets lined so thickly with people on a holiday when many of us simply want to sleep in.

In Northville, Shari Peters and the parade committee at the Northville Community Foundation again came up strong with their parade, too. So did the many people who planned and oversaw holiday events at Plymouth Township Park and at Mill Race Historical Village in Northville.

This weekend will again see another impressive act of volunteerism, when dozens of people return to downtown Plymouth to help Dianne Quinn and Raychel Rork pull off another successful Art in the Park event.

It's not an easy task to put on any of these events. It takes planning, it takes commitment and it takes an active community spirit.

We'd just like to take a moment to thank everyone involved with these fine events. Our lives are all a lot richer because of their efforts.

Legislators are on target

Just when you think you've heard it all, along comes another bare brained idea.

This one is referred to as 'Internet Hunting'

Perhaps you haven't heard about this, but there is apparently a way to mount a world wide web camera on a loaded firearm – gun or crossbow – and leave it in the pristine woods in northern Michigan and other locations. Hunters can then return to their home and look through the camera from their living rooms or their office and, should a wayward buck amble in front of the cross hairs, a click of the mouse is all that's required to send Bambi to the not-so-happy hunting ground.

Unbelievable.

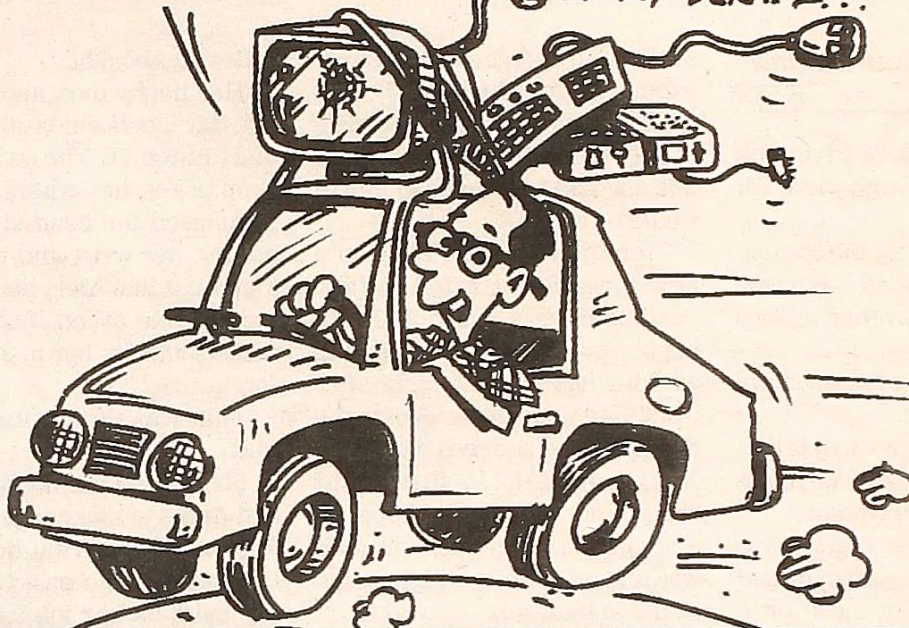
Fortunately, a group of Michigan legislators have grouped together to ban this practice, snatch the sport from the video game generation and return it to those who truly respect it.

Senate Bills (SB) 373 was sponsored by some northern legislators, but co-sponsored by State Sen. Bruce Patterson (R-Canton), an avid hunter and outdoorsman, who had this to say about it:

"There is no 'sport' to watching a video monitor and clicking a

See Ban, page 7

I KINDA LIKE THIS INTERNET HUNTING...
I HOPE THEY DON'T BAN IT...
THIS WILL LOOK GREAT ON THE WALL OF MY DEN...



Congratulations my 'lead' foot

I received a press release last week that allows me to vent about something I find personally very frustrating.

It came from the Insurance Institute of Michigan and it congratulated the industry on only having a 4 percent increase in insurance premiums in 2004.

Gee thanks.

Among the factors that led to the increase were the increases in personal injury claims, collision claims and the average jury award in auto liability cases, as well as insurance fraud. The increasing costs of medical care, vehicle repair and lawsuits are a problem, the release said.

That may all be true, but I'll believe it as a basis for a rate increase for everyone when I start to hear about some insurance executive mulling over paying the late fee on his insurance premiums or his car payment or putting off grocery shopping for a week, like many of the rest of us have to.

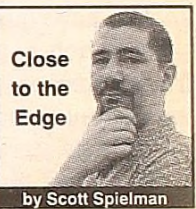
It offered some suggestions for consumers: shop

around, drive carefully, select your car with insurance in mind and ask about 'special' discounts.

Let's see. Yes, it is a competitive marketplace and shopping around is always a good idea, if you have the time. Trying to get insurance rates coordinated is almost as time-consuming as looking for a new job or a home.

It's important to drive carefully. Your insurance rates are going to go up, no matter what. Heaven forbid you try to make a claim, on top of that, or get caught in a moment of inattention. If you get a ticket for going 5 miles an hour over the speed limit, you can get two points on your license. That makes you unsafe, of course, and it's more expensive to insure someone who bolts through a 25 m.p.h. zone at a brisk 30.

See My foot, page 7



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

The media is not the problem

Members of the Inkster Police Department and the chief, Marvin H. Winkler, have been embroiled in a feud for the past several weeks, but the situation has been brewing since shortly after the chief took the reigns of the department two years ago.

Recently, both unions – the Inkster Police Officers Association and the Inkster Command Officers Association – took a vote of the membership that indicated a 38-7 margin showing no confidence in the chief's ability to lead the department. Eleven officers were unable to vote. Two weeks earlier, the Police Officer's Association named the chief the state's worst police administrator.

So what is the source of all the dissention?

Since June 2003 – when Winkler took over – officers say discipline has been handed out at uneven levels, and favoritism has run rampant in the 62-officer department. Some both inside and outside the department believe some of the investigations might be racially motivated.

Winkler and his supporters appear to have conducted external investigations on at least seven white officers and have attempted to obtain criminal charges against at least two of them. Some of these investigations have revolved around things like opening a package – things that might better be handled internally. The vast majority of these investigations have yielded no charges.

However, an African American officer who allegedly fired his weapon at a fleeing man during a "booster" patrol last August was investigated internally, but was never referred to an outside agency.

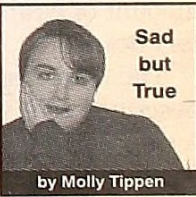
Promotions have also had their share of controversy. Last year, and African American detective tested for a sergeant's position. Though he scored highest on the exam – no doubt he would have made a fine sergeant – he decided the time was not right for him to leave the detective bureau.

But members of Winkler's staff relentlessly pursued him to take the position instead of offering it to the next-highest scorer, a white detective. Eventually, the department was forced to promote the white detective, because the other detective just didn't want the job.

So what is the solution for all of this? Apparently to some city councilmen, getting a new news reporter would quell the problems.

Mayor Hilliard Hampton said the newspaper had "victimized" the chief – and that he had been similarly victimized because I did not cover Hampton's "State of the City" address. In actuality, I had two conversations with Hampton about the speech before it was given, and was invited to send his speech to me, so I could interview him and write a story before the address (a scheduling conflict prevented me from attending the event). But the city sent the speech too late for a story. Also, when I asked to refute some bogus claims made about "not having his name in the paper for a year," he denied me the opportunity to speak – in clear violation of the Open Meetings Act.

See Media, page 7



Sad but True

by Molly Tippen

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Take a hike, and hit the trail

For everything that Canton Township gains, it also losing something. These losses are chalked up as collateral damage in the great urban sprawling of America: woods, wetlands and wildlife.

Of course, there are the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requirements to which developers must adhere. It is nice to see developers get visibly angry when they simply hear mention of the DEQ—what they want, obviously, is to bulldoze the trees, slap up some characterless, beige homes and throw down some thick, green turf. The complete American package for only \$400,000.

Ultimately, though, there isn't much the DEQ can do. They can make sure there isn't an environmental catastrophe, but as far as keeping an area rustic, that's up to the municipality.

In Canton, economics have the upper hand on retaining any of the township bucolic nature. It's

not so much the case in neighboring Superior Township, which resists development as much as Canton seeks it. There's no problem with this. The officials and (most) residents in Canton welcome it. The Summit on the Park,

It's important to have areas like this for children to explore, especially.

the Village Theater and the wealth of leisure services programs, not to mention the growing Canton reputation, are all products of the township's affluence.

It is no longer the farming backwater it once was. Canton, in a way, has been tamed.

That's why it was nice to see the opening of the Fellows Creek Wetland Nature Trail. I first visit-

ed the trail on River Day last month, and found myself there again recently. It is, to me, the only little spot of wilderness left in Canton, where people can get a respite from the sanitized suburbs and walk a little, be in the middle of trees and see animals.

It's important to have areas like this for children to explore, especially. When I was growing up in Livonia, I spent half my summer exploring the woods in Hines Park, catching turtles and building camps with my friends. Now, it seems, kids spend their summers either on carefully manicured soccer fields, or in air-conditioned basements working their thumbs at video games.

So, if you have any time this summer between soccer games and all the other activities you have planned, drop whatever it is you're doing one day and hit the trail.



Cutting Loose
by John Counts

My foot

FROM PAGE 6

Select your car with insurance in mind. It sounds good in theory; a family sedan should get you into less trouble than, say, a Porsche 911. If only it worked that way. I recently changed from a PT Cruiser to a Ford Focus station wagon, and my insurance almost doubled. Here's a car that's: less expensive to purchase, less expensive to maintain, less expensive to repair, with a smaller engine and fewer horsepower. It's an entry level car; if the Big Three are wondering why nobody is buying them, maybe it's because cars like the Focus Wagon speedster are out there endangering the public and filing up repair shops.

Ask about special discounts, which include multiple car, low

mileage, air bags and such and maintaining good credit.

The last one is the rub with me, because good credit and good driving have no correlation. It's simply another excuse to further penalize people that are having a difficult time right now. Their rates go up, and they may have to choose which bills to pay on time.

Their credit may suffer from that and that gives the insurance company an excuse to further increase their rates?

So the rates only went up 4 percent last year. Yippee Skippee. They'll go up again this year, and most likely we'll get more press releases about how the industry did well to keep those increases minimal.

Maybe the next round will include this tidbit, too: the industry needs more of your money to maintain their profits. Because that's the bottom line.

Media

FROM PAGE 6

The mayor insinuated the paper is to blame for a lag in development in the city, and that the newspaper did not respect elected officials and department heads, which is odd because the Ledger-Star has covered everything from the firefighters who saved a trapped girl from a burning apartment, Department of Public Service workers who freed a trapped worker from a sink hole, an elected official who was able to get a traffic signal at an unsafe intersection that has possi-

bly saved lives, and rank-and-file police officers that have worked hard to bring down crime. The vast majority of these stories appeared on the front page.

None of this has anything to do with what's happening in the police department. Union officials have said they hope to address 13 grievances (50 percent of the cost of arbitration, if the disputes can't be settled, must be paid by the city) filed by officers against the department with City Manager Joyce Parker, but is that going to change how business is conducted in the department?

One also has to wonder why Winkler is enjoying support in overdrive from some council

members. They say it's because crime is going down in the city – and they're right. But crime has been gently cycling down during the past five years, according to FBI statistics. And the former chiefs – Terry Colwell and Phil Ludos – did not enjoy the rampant support Winkler has right now.

Hampton asked, "How do you take on the media?" at the June 13 meeting. The answer is that you don't have to.

You take on the root of the problem, no matter how difficult it is.

Ban

FROM PAGE 6

mouse. "This abhorrent practice of Internet hunting needs to be banned."

Patterson was also the primary sponsor of SB 620, which sets the fines and other penalties of the practice.

The advancement of technology has put legislators in some situations that they no doubt couldn't foresee when they first ran for office. No doubt, that's the case here, too.

Even if you take aside all the argu-

ments about animal rights, this is one of those practices that shows the dark side of human nature. Those who truly respect the sport of hunting have an immense respect for the game they are tracking. It's not something that will ever translate to a video screen.

The Michigan Senate wasted no time in approving the ban, either. It was unanimously approved last month, and showed co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle.

This is something that deserved quick action, too. Hopefully those who engaged in the practice of Internet hunting didn't see that one coming.

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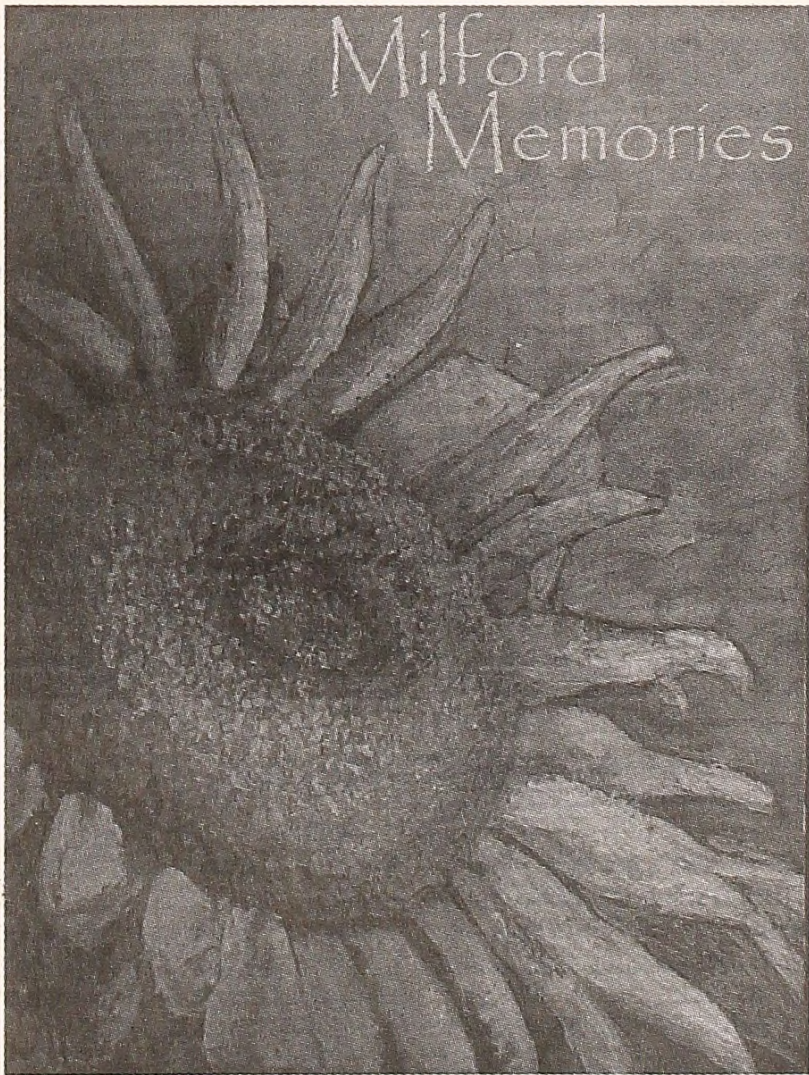


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Help sought in local plant rescue effort

The Johnson Creek Protection Group, with the help of Karen Gorman from Design Resource Associates, are working on a plant rescue in Belleville and need some help from the public.

The plant rescue will take place at 7 a.m. on Saturday where a large maple woods is scheduled for some clearing in the subdivisions and road plots.

The rescue will include: trilliums, lady ferns, wild ginger, wild geraniums, false Solomon's seals, jack-in-the-pulpits and

sedges.

Volunteers are asked to bring a plastic sled to convey the plants, plastic grocery bags, a shovel and plenty of strong mosquito repellent. It is advisable to wear long pants and a long sleeved shirt since there are poisonous plants found in the area.

For more information, a map and specific directions on the meeting place, contact Gorman at Kleegorman@aol.com.

Obituaries

ROBERTS, Laurence

Laurence D. Roberts, 49, of Belleville, died June 23.

Among his survivors are his wife of more than 22 years, Deborah (Zander) Roberts; daughters, Lauren D. Roberts and Diana L. Roberts, both of Belleville; parents, George Roberts and Rita (Akans) Bellon of Belleville; a sister, Donna Roberts, also of Belleville; nieces, Charlene (Billy) Spakes and Megan Zander, and a great-nephew, William Bradley Spakes.

Mr. Roberts was a test driver for the Kia Motor Co.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with the Rev. Robert J. White officiating.

Cremation rites were accorded.

ALLISON, Jamal

Jamal Martez Allison, 9-months of age, of Romulus, died May 28.

Among his survivors are his parents, Darnell O'Neal and Melanie Allison; brothers, Martel, Marquis, Darnell and Darion; sisters, Uneeq, Darchanique and Darniesha, and his grandparents.

Funeral services were at Penn Funeral Home with Elder Ronald Springer officiating.

Interment was at Westlawn Cemetery in Wayne.

CHANDLER, Roland

Roland Duane Chandler, 52, of Romulus, died June 6.

Among his survivors is his wife of 34 years, Deborah; his mother, Lillie; daughters, Keshia, Cecily, Tara and Tameika; two sisters, and five grandchildren.

Mr. Chandler worked at APCOA, prior to his retirement.

Funeral services were at the Penn Funeral Home with the Rev. Robert Orr, Sr. officiating.

Cremation rites were accorded.

KAPEK, Cynthia

Cynthia Marie Kapek, 49, of Westland, formerly of Canton Township, died June 27.

Among her survivors are her children, Michelle L. (David Sikes) Kapek of Canton and Christopher M. Kapek of Iowa; her mother, Shara McCartney (Drysdale) Moose of Detroit; sisters, Debbie Kopsolias of Canton, Wendy (Ken) Keiger of Barnsville, Ohio, Kim (Pat) MacDonald and Pam Moose, both of Belleville; brothers, Jimmy Moose, Jr. of Belleville, Jon (Karen) Moose of Tennessee and Jeff Moose of Brighton; 12 nieces and nephews, including Richard Jones of Belleville, and a granddaughter, Chelsea Sikes.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Pastor Robert J. White officiating.

Cremation rites were accorded.

HEADY, Wanda

Wanda Lee Heady, 53, of Belleville, died June 28.

Among her survivors are her husband, Bruce D. Heady; children, Don (Laura) Solomon, Jr. of Belleville, Sheila (Jim) Alfred of Southfield and Shannon (Nick) Johnson of Jackson; step-children, Amana (Matt) Prichard of Plymouth and Angela (Paul) Holsworth of Brighton; a brother-in-law, Louie Greenwood of Creek; AA/cousins, Christina (Michael) Ebert and Robert (Ya-Ju) Bradley, and 10 grandchildren.

Mrs. Heady retired from the General Motors Willow Run Plant where she had worked for 17 1/2 years. She was a member of the Milan Moose Lodge.

Cremation rites were accorded.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

HAMMOND, George

George F. Hammond, 78, of Belleville, died July 1.

Among his survivors area his wife of nearly 55 years, Mildred Louise (Albar) Hammond; children, Larry George (Kathy) Hammond of Monroe, Dennis Ray (Karen) Hammond of Milan, Candy Joyce (Mark) Fromer of Belleville, Mark William (Jane) Hammond of Romulus and Mary Ann Kaleal of Lake Orion; brothers, Harold (Pauline Mae) Hammond of Milan, David (Shirley) Hammond of Tecumseh and James (Jan) Hammond of Tecumseh; nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Hammond was a member of the Maranatha Baptist Church in Belleville. He served in the U.S. Army as a sergeant first-class during 1945-1951.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Pastor Paul D. Bostwick officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock

GAMBLE, David

David Charles Gamble, 42, of Northville, formerly of Westland, died June 26.

Among his survivors are his parents, Richard (Marlene) Gamble of Belleville and June (Keast) Gamble of Northville; brothers, Craig Richard Gamble of Commerce Township and Shawn Edward of Westland; a sister, Jodi Kaye of Northville; an aunt, Marcella Braswell of St. Clair Shores; several cousins, and a nephew, Brandon Gamble.

Mr. Gamble was a graduate of Livonia High School. He also earned a degree in culinary arts.

A memorial service was at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Dr. John N. Grenfell III officiating.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

Continued from page 4

101-3110-731.71-10	Overtime	485,000	95,000	580,000
101-3110-731.72-10	Social Security	275,922	12,090	288,012
101-3110-731.72-20	Medicare	64,530	2,828	67,358
101-3110-731.72-80	Worker's Comp	167,298	7,560	174,858
101-3310-733.70-20	Salaries & Wages-Animal Shelter	114,934	900	115,834
101-3310-733.71-10	Overtime	1,000	700	1,700
101-3310-733.72-10	Social Security	7,312	99	7,411

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General Fund				
Expenditures				
101-3310-733.72-20	Medicare	1,710	23	1,733
101-3310-733.72-80	Worker's Comp	4,056	53	4,109
101-3410-734.74-20	Salaries & Wages-Fire	965,990	57,000	1,022,990
101-3410-734.71-10	Overtime	120,000	15,500	135,500
101-3410-734.72-10	Social Security	74,697	4,495	79,192
101-3410-734.72-20	Medicare	17,469	1,051	18,520
101-3410-734.72-80	Worker's Comp	66,620	4,051	70,671
101-3810-738.70-20	Salaries & Wages Planning	80,802	2,450	83,252
101-3810-738.72-10	Social Security	6,647	152	6,799
101-3810-738.72-20	Medicare	1,556	36	1,592
101-3810-738.72-80	Worker's Comp	1,961	18	1,979
101-4110-741.70-20	Salaries & Wages-DPW	297,405	1,200	298,605
101-4110-741.70-27	Comp Absences	1,000	3,000	4,000
101-4110-741.72-10	Social Security	19,493	260	19,753
101-4110-741.72-20	Medicare	4,559	61	4,620
101-4110-741.72-80	Worker's Comp	7,353	132	7,485
101-4130-741.70-20	Salaries & Wages-Bldg & Grds	825,067	32,000	857,067
101-4130-741.72-40	Health Insurance	188,691	16,000	204,691
101-4130-741.72-10	Social Security	54,750	4,870	59,620
101-4130-741.72-20	Medicare	12,804	1,139	13,943
101-4130-741.72-80	Worker's Comp	49,999	4,460	54,459
101-4140-741.70-20	Salaries & Wages Cemetery	56,309	3,500	59,809
101-4140-741.72-10	Social Security	4,441	217	4,658
101-4140-741.72-20	Medicare	804	51	855
101-4140-741.72-80	Worker's Comp	3,994	199	4,193
101-5120-752.70-20	Salaries & Wages-Library	31,038	742	31,780
101-5120-752.72-10	Social Security	2,451	46	2,497
101-5120-752.72-20	Medicare	573	11	584
101-5120-752.72-80	Worker's Comp	270	3	273
Contingencies		AVAILABLE	APPROPRIATE	BALANCE
101-2920-729.89-01	Contingencies	774,692	(423,741)	350,951

To appropriate salaries and wage increases due to contract settlements and personnel changes

05-227

6A1. Motion by Crova, supported by Miller to approve Budget Amendment 04/05-25, allocation of Administrative Charges introduced at the Council Meeting held June 6, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-228

6A2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff, to approve second reading and final adoption of Budget Amendment 04/05-26, Delinquent Personal Property Tax collections introduced at the Council Meeting held June 6, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-229

6A3. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to adopt a resolution to affirm the necessity for the maintenance of the Merriman Road improvements and to proceed with the project.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-230

11. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Wadsworth authorizing the Treasurer of the City of Romulus to disburse funds as listed in Warrant 05-11 in the amount of Seven Hundred Forty One Thousand, One Hundred Eighty Three Dollars and One Cents (\$741,183.01).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes- Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Abstain - Crova.
Motion Carried.

12. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held June 13, 2005.

Linda R. Choate
City Clerk

Publish: July 7, 2005

Winner of music scholarship named

Dominique Booker of Belleville was recently named the winner of the Sanilac County Community Foundation Richard M. Coffelt Memorial Scholarship.

Booker will attend Anderson University in the fall to study criminal justice in the pre-law program.

She graduated from Belleville High School where she was active in the school symphony band, the psychology club, the Spanish club, the chemistry club and the National Honor Society.

Booker's past musical performances and honors include: a performance at Carnegie Hall

and the Heritage Festival in Washington D.C., earning the George and Paralee Purifoy Youth Award for excellence in Christian Service, becoming a National Ventures scholar and being listed as one of the "Who's Who Among High School Students."

The Richard M. Coffelt Memorial Scholarship was established in honor of Richard M. Coffelt, a former band director and teacher in the Van Buren Public Schools District from 1948-1972. It is intended to promote music education and encourage students to pursue a



Dominique Booker

career in music. The money is awarded annually for the music education needs of a Belleville High School senior, according to Joan Nagelkirk, executive director of the Sanilac County Community Foundation.

School naming rights sale considered by board

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The prospect of selling naming rights to schools and athletic facilities is a prospect that may soon come before Van Buren Public Schools officials for a decision.

"Financially I could see the benefits, but I haven't had the opportunity to look at all the details to see the negative impacts of it,"

said Superintendent Pete Lazaroff.

A recent approval by the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education allows the sale of naming rights there. The district could create hyphenated names for schools, which may include a school name with a mention of a corporate sponsor.

"I would like to see some businesses come forward and say they would like to be involved with the schools," said Ralph Nodwell, vice-president of the Van Buren School Board. "Everyone is always looking for new ways for revenue and I would like to consider this as an option for us. It's always nice to see the name of an individual

who was an influence on the Belleville area have their name associated with the schools and now that the rules have changed, it's a whole different game."

But other school board members, like Martha Toth, feel that

these school districts have their priorities misplaced.

"My first reaction is that's pitiful. What have we come to?" she said. "We have cut everything that we can

think of to cut and this naming rights thing is a disgrace. Now I'm wondering if we are compromising our mission when things like that are happening. I can't imagine selling the naming rights of schools. I just can't imagine doing it. I think it's a terrible idea, but maybe if we're really that desperate we'd consider it."

Although partnering up to name a school facility is not something the Van Buren school district has ever directly done, Lazaroff and other school officials agreed it's something to bring to the school board table.

"I'd like to look into it and will be putting it on the school board work study agenda," said Nodwell.

Everyone is always looking for new ways for revenue and I would like to consider this as an option for us.

Police briefs

Armed robber makes off with money

A Marathon gas station, located at Belleville Road and I-94 Service Drive in Van Buren Township, was robbed last Thursday night.

According to Van Buren Police Sgt. Greg Laurain, a white male described as about age 20, 6-feet, 4-inches tall and weighing 170 pounds, went into the gas station appearing as if he were going to purchase something, but instead showed a handgun and asked for all the money. The man then put the money in a white garbage bag and fled on foot. He drove away in a late 1980s white Buick Oldsmobile. The suspect left with

about \$300-\$500 in cash.

Anyone with information regarding the robbery is asked to call the township public safety department at 734-699-8939.

House shooting injures young male

Officials in Van Buren Township continue to investigate a house shooting that took place last Thursday at around 9:50 p.m. on the 4400 block of the Harmony Lane Subdivision in the township.

According to preliminary investigation reports, four young males between the ages of 17-20, were involved with a negligent discharge of a firearm. All four of the boys were watching movies in

the parents' bedroom when they heard firecrackers outside and decided to act. The 17-year-old male went behind his father's chest of drawers and grabbed his 12-gauge shotgun. The shotgun was loaded and discharged striking one of his friends in the face, according to Police Sgt. Greg Laurain.

The young male was immediately taken to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital to be treated for massive facial injuries. The boy is currently in stable condition.

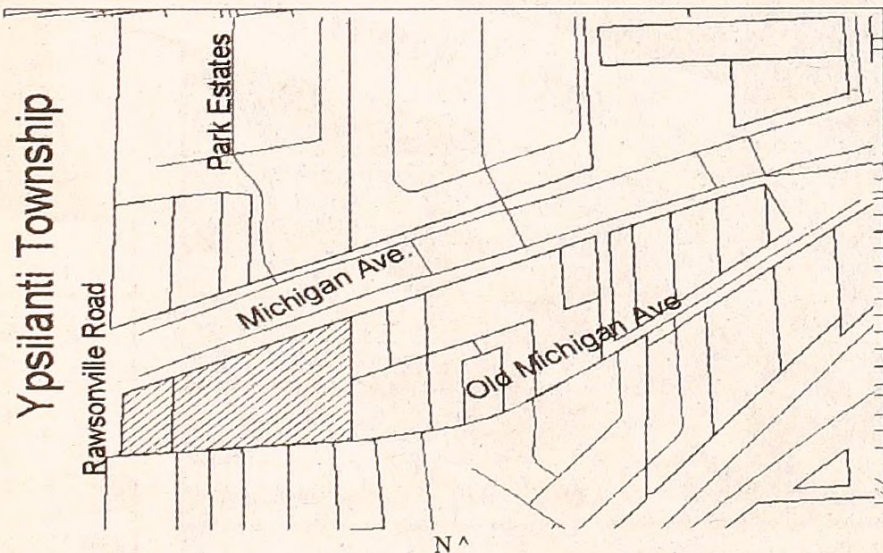
Laurain said that the parents of the young adults were home at the time of the incident. The case remains under investigation.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on Tuesday July 19, 2005 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan.

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

Parcel number V125-83-022-99-0011-000 & V125-83-022-99-0010-000 approximately 3.88 acres is located on the south side of Michigan Ave. between Rawsonville Road and Denton Road. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The applicant is requesting special use approval. A special use approval is required for a drive-through restaurant window and oil change operation per Section 12.03 (d) of the Zoning Ordinance. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00p.m., July 19, 2004, the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

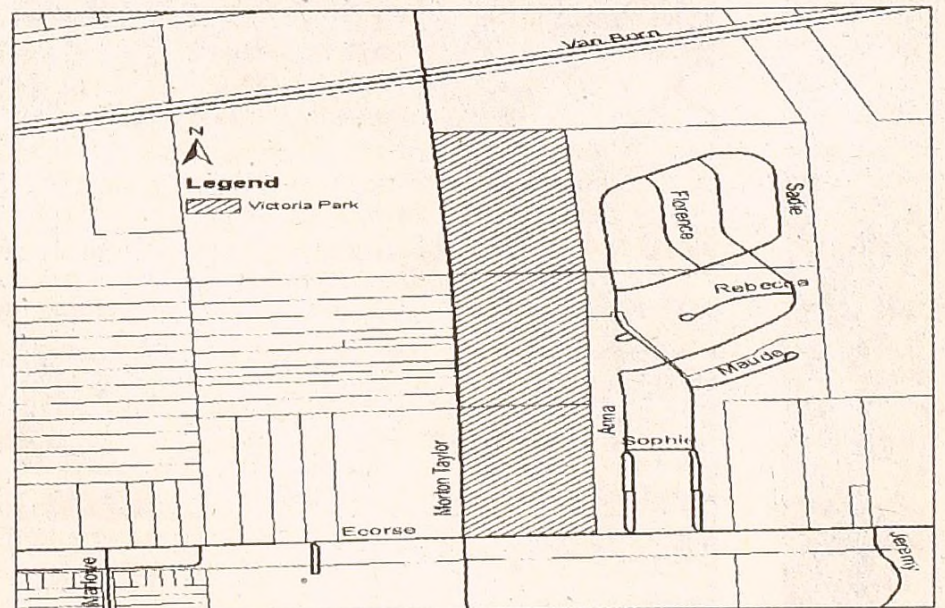
Publish: July 7, 2005

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on Tuesday July 19, 2005 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan.

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

Parcel number V125-83-007-99-0001-701, V125-83-007-99-0003-701, V125-83-006-99-0007-701 approximately 66.56 acres is located on the north side of Ecorse Road and East side of Morton Taylor Road between Morton Taylor and Haggerty Road. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The applicant is requesting special use approval. A special use approval is required for a Planned Residential Development Section 7.04 of the Zoning Ordinance. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00p.m., July 19, 2005, the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: July 7, 2005

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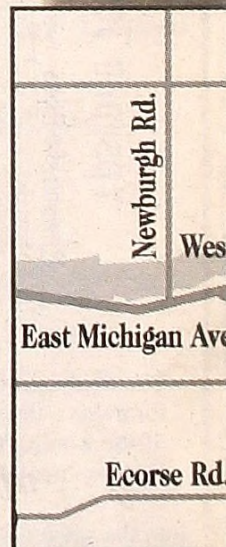
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THE SCENE



Spielberg spins realistic tale

In 1938, Orson Welles famously turned *War of the Worlds* into a radio broadcast that scared the living daylights out of a lot of people. Listeners thought aliens had actually landed, even though the real threat then were Fascists in Europe, not Martians.

When the aliens strike in Steven Spielberg's film adaptation of H. G. Wells' *War of the Worlds*, there is an unsettling feeling of déjà vu. People run manically through the streets, fleeing for their lives from the smoking danger above. It brings to mind memories of another unexplained attack that left us asking: "why?" By the time Dakota Fanning, who plays Ray Ferrier's (Tom Cruise) young daughter, is hunched down in the backseat of a mini-van screaming, "Is it the terrorists?" there is no denying the allusion to Sept. 11, another attack that came out of nowhere and still has us gripping to make sense of it.

Politics aside, though, "War" is also a very elemental summer action movie that is quite thrilling. No one does these movies better than Spielberg, who generally gets credit for inventing the summer blockbuster with *Jaws* in 1977.

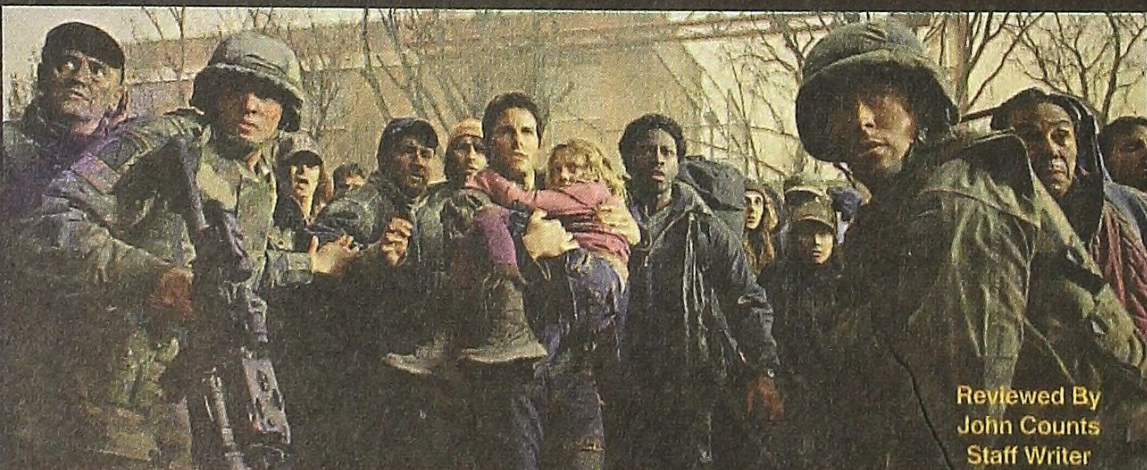
Spielberg knows that at the center of any good story aren't special effects (though he knows their importance and utilizes them excellently here), but people. If you don't care about the people the monsters are chasing around, then what does it matter if they get gobbled up? Ferrier, a longshoreman, is a borderline deadbeat dad whose children hate coming to spend the weekend at his house in Jersey. Engine parts clutter the kitchen, there's no food and Ferrier is played by Cruise as a jumpy, quick-tempered jerk, which doesn't seem like too much of a stretch for the actor, given his recent, off-screen follies.

His son, Robbie, is becoming rebellious and his daughter, Rachel, played like a mini-adult by Fanning, is stricken with fears and phobias. Their stay at daddy's comes to an abrupt end when huge tripods operated by aliens (they are never referred to as Martians) burst up out of the ground and start ravaging Ferrier's neighborhood—and the rest of the country, we soon learn. An electromagnetic storm has rendered many of the things we've come to rely on—electronic devices, automobiles—useless. Ferrier, though, is a motorhead and gets what seems to be the only car on the Eastern Seaboard working.

After the character set-up and initial invasion, the movie becomes one prolonged chase scene. Ferrier and his kids are trying to get to Boston so, as Robbie puts it, Ray can dump the kids on their mother so he only has to take care of himself. It doesn't seem this is possible, or anything will ever be possible on earth again, thanks to the aliens, who basically annihilate everything in their path with all the regret of a child gleefully stomping an anthill and watching the ants scurry on the sidewalk. These aliens are definitely no E.T. trying to phone home.

The acting, as pretty much everything else in "War," is good. There's that first awkward moment in the beginning where we're asked to accept pretty boy Cruise as a blue collar, hard-nosed workingman, but he pulls it off well. The alien invasion and nearly dying with his children in his arms helps Ferrier see the error of his ways. Cruise and Fanning steal the show in that respect. Her character begins as that precocious child who always seems to know a little bit more than the adults—Fanning's specialty—but after the attack, she basically screams her way through the rest of the movie.

Spielberg's ending seems a bit overly hopeful, but that's what we expect from him, so it's not terribly surprising. All movies have to end, and, while "War" touches on politics and current events, it's mostly action movie, and has more in common with a roller coaster than the 9/11 Commission Report. This movie doesn't disappoint, though. What Spielberg has assembled here is a great, visceral movie that rumbles in your mind and body soon after you leave the air-conditioned theater, back out into the summer sun.



Reviewed By
John Counts
Staff Writer

THE SCENE



Bewitched



Another TV remake that even witchcraft couldn't save

In the original television show *Bewitched*, Elizabeth Montgomery played Samantha, a good witch who wanted to be normal but couldn't help using her special powers when life in suburbia became too messy.

In the new movie version, Nicole Kidman plays Isabel Bigelow, a good witch who wants a normal life, but eventually gets cast playing Samantha in a remake of the sit-com. The clever premise isn't enough to carry the movie to anyplace magical, though. It stretches thin and, by the end, almost makes the viewer wish director Nora Ephron, who brought us *Sleepless in Seattle*, would have played it straight.

I found myself asking this question while watching *Bewitched*: Is this necessary?

Answer: No.

A movie version of *Bewitched*, like a movie version of, say, *I Dream of Jeannie*, *Dukes of*

Hazzard and *Miami Vice*—all of which are coming soon to theaters near you—didn't really need to be made. They had their time in the sun. Let's move on. Besides, none of them were very good to begin with.

The proof is in Ephron's approach. If the *Bewitched* story really needed to be told again, Ephron wouldn't have had to rely on post-modern highjinks to freshen it up. Having to use such devices signals that the material has reached its expiration date and is stinking up the refrigerator. What Ephron does is smirk and call it yogurt. If made straight, *Bewitched*, at the very least, might have been comfort food for fans of the old show. Now, they don't even have that.

In an effort to connect with audiences who watch hours of behind-the-scenes specials about Hollywood, this *Bewitched* takes place not in suburbia, but in sound stages and studio back lots. Will Ferrell plays failing movie

star Jack Wyatt, who begrudgingly takes a role on a television remake of *Bewitched* after his last movie flopped horribly. Wyatt is a stereotypical, egomaniacal star who decides to tailor the show around Darren, whose character was so inconsequential on the original show that no one seemed to bat an eye when they switched actors. Instead of casting a well-known actress in the Samantha role, Wyatt demands it be an unknown.

Enter Isabel Bigelow, a witch who wants to give up her craft and live a normal life of mess and disorder, which includes renting a house, shopping and falling in love. She is attracted to Wyatt when they run into each other at a restaurant because he seems to have so many problems. Wyatt, on the other hand, is

See Movie, page 14

Reviewed By
John Counts
Staff Writer

JERRY STANECKI, THE NEWSHAWK ASKS FOR YOUR HELP

Dear Friends,

For more than 30 years, you've supported my efforts as the Newshawk on Ch 7, as a consumer advocate, and, as an outspoken voice when there is a need. Together, we've made a difference.

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Jerry Stanek

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THE SCENE

Blast from the past

60s Doo Wop groups to perform in Northville

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

The 1960s may be long gone, but the classic songs of the decade will live on this summer as Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall in downtown Northville presents A Summer of Songs—a three-part concert series focused on doo wop-style musicians.

"It's just a fun thing to do in the summer for our customers," said Laura Genitti, spokesperson for Genitti's.

The first concert, scheduled for July 16, will feature the Reflections. The group is best

known for their hit, *Just Like Romeo and Juliet*. They have performed at Genitti's in the past to a full house—most recently, about a month ago.

The Teen Angels will present a tribute to Frankie Valli on July 22. Valli is possibly best known for his song, *Can't Take My Eyes Off of You*.

The final show is Aug. 5 when the Shades of Blue take their place on the stage for a flashback performance. The band is best known for their song, *Oh How Happy (You Have Made Me)*.

Tickets are rapidly selling out for the Reflections show, so

Genitti recommended that interested individuals reserve their space early to avoid disappointment. There are still spaces available for the 7:30 p.m. show; the earlier show has already sold out. Reservations for the performance by the Reflections are \$45 each, and include the concert, Genitti's trademark seven course family style Italian dinner, and a meet-and-greet with the performers where they will sign autographs and answer questions. Drinks and gratuity are not included in the ticket price.

Participants should reserve several hours for the event.

"With dinner and a show, they'll be here about three hours," said Genitti. The concert itself is expected to last for a little more than an hour."

Reservations are also available for the Teen Angels and Shades of Blue concerts. Ticket prices vary from show to show.

Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall is located at 108 East Main St. in downtown Northville. It is located just east of Center Street/Sheldon Road and north of Seven Mile Road.

For more information or to make reservations, call Genitti's at (248) 349-0522.



Movie

FROM PAGE 13

drawn to Isabel because she can perform the trademark nose wiggle—and she's a pushover. Little does Wyatt know that he has cast a real witch playing a witch on television. Ah, the irony. Or is that coincidence?

Regardless, the situations that the premise sets up are only mildly amusing. Ferrell still hasn't proven himself to be leading man material. There's no doubt that at times, he can be hilarious, but *Bewitched* isn't one them. He fumbles about the movie like he's still in a *Saturday Night Live* sketch because he

knows that's how audiences want to see him. As the main lead role in a movie, though, this doesn't fly. His antics provide for a few laughs, which we must savor because there aren't many in the movie.

Kidman is the only thing worth watching. Unlike Samantha on the original show, who slyly keeps everything in order with and without her special powers, Kidman plays Isabel as an innocent. Everything is new to her and she bubbles with surprise and enthusiasm. We hope things will turn out well for her, which they do. I just wish things could have worked out better for the movie itself. If I had special powers, I would definitely cast a spell on this movie to make it better. In fact, I would cast a spell on all of Hollywood to stop making movies out of stupid sitcoms.

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02. In Memoriam
03. Cards of Thanks
04. Monuments & Cemetery Plots
05. Personal
06. Legal Notices
07. Attorneys
08. Entertainment
09. Lost & Found
10. Coming Events
30. Help Wanted</p> | <p>31. Help Wanted Sales
32. Help Wanted Drivers
33. Child Care
34. Specialized Services
35. Situations Wanted
40. Business Opportunity
42. Pawn Shops
43. Money to Loan
44. Music/Art Lessons
45. Private Tutoring
46. Private Instruction
47. Riding/Horses/Stables</p> | <p>50. Pets & Supplies
54. Rummage Sales
55. Estate Sales
56. Flea Markets
57. Antiques
58. Garage and Yard Sales
59. Auctions
60. Misc. Sales
61. Misc. Items
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63. Business and Office Equipment</p> | <p>64. Lawn & Garden Supplies
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96. Houses for Rent
97. Cottages for Rent</p> | <p>98. Mobile Homes for Rent
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|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|

1. Obituaries

HAMMOND,
George F.
Age-78
Belleville, MI
Fri., July 1, 2005

MORVANT, Maude of Wayne, MI. Died January 19, 2005 following a brief illness. She was born in Thidaux, LA, and moved to Wayne following her marriage to Warren "Slim" Morvant, her husband of 61 years. She was retired from Lazar's men's store, where she worked for 32 years. Maude is survived by her husband, Warren, a daughter, Carolyn (Sam) Strutz, a son, Warren Jr. (Ruthann) and 2 grandchildren, Clint Morvant and Robert Strutz.

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#278 Chad Bihun-misc. household items

#234 Timothy J. Engler-scaffold, pallets, misc. items

#231 Crystal A. Pope-tires, furniture, air conditioner

#350 Sheila Filek-refrigerator, dishwasher, boxed misc. items

#489 Cap Services Inc.-roofing materials, ladders, roof jacks

#490 Roland Quinn-desk, dolly, household items, locker

#501 Douglas L. Harris-chairs, ladder, furniture, misc. items

#447 Elizabeth Roberson-aquarium, 1989 Riva Moped, bikes, speakers, furniture

#253 Ian M. Hudson-television, couch, 1998 Triumph motorcycle

CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On July 12, 2005 the Westland Police Department will conduct public auctions of impounded abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00am at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

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1G1JC1116KJ271322

1990 Rockwood
Pop-up Tlr. Coach Gray
1RKTC1818L1000117

1989 Chrysler LeBaron
2 Dr White
1C3XJ41K3KG256733

The second auction will begin promptly at 10:30 at ACE Towing, 33032 Ford Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicle will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

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The third auction will begin promptly at 11:00am at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

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2 Dr Burgundy
JT3EL31F6L0544453

1991 Chevy Corsica
4 Dr Gray
1G1LT53G7MY214929

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PU Trk Blue
1FTCR10A7RUD73849

1993 Jeep Cherokee
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1J4GZ78S3PC594248

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1GCCS14R9M0183345

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1997 Mercury Mountaineer
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4M2DU55P3VUJ45472

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amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

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Case # 05-2513

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1GCB514E3J2233763
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SPORTS

Romulus standout finds place on college team

Lionel Tipton
Special Writer

EL DORADO, Kan.—In the past few years, Geryn Reese has bounced around, much like the basketball he dribbles.

He transferred from a high school in Ohio to Romulus, Mich., for his senior year, and helped that school to the state title game in Michigan's highest classification.

Now that he has signed to attend Butler Community College next season, head coach Randy Smithson will likely be depending on some of that magic as well.

Smithson confirmed that he recently received a signed letter of intent from Reese, 6-foot-2, 190 pounds, who becomes the 12th and final newcomer for the Grizzlies. Reese said that he prefers to play the point, but can play the shooting guard if needed.

His high school coach at Romulus, Nate Oats, said he wished he could have had Reese longer than one year.

"He was the missing piece," Oats said. "He's a big, athletic guard who can create his own shot, but he was also our team's co-Defensive Player of the Year. He came a long ways on the defensive end. He made himself into a great defensive player."

Romulus has a history of producing top-notch players, such as Terry Mills and Grant Long, and this year's team is no different, Oats said. He mentioned that his starting point guard is headed for the University of Michigan, a wing signed with Nebraska-Kearney, and East Tennessee State signed a Romulus shooting guard. Oats said he is confident that a Division I school is in Reese's post-Butler future.

"Geryn's going to play Division I after Butler," he said. "He has a chance to be as good or better as any of them (the other Romulus players)."

Smithson said that the changes that Reese has had to undergo have forced him to make adjustments in his friends and coaches and that he has an ability to blend in.

"He shows maturity and mental toughness," Smithson said.

Smithson credited assistant coach Mike Barger's contacts in Detroit as a way that Butler was able to discover Reese. The influence of hard-working teams in the area such as the Detroit Pistons and Michigan State doesn't hurt, he added.

"That's how you play the game," he said. "Tough defense, share the ball, execute and do it with toughness. That's what we're about as well, so he's a natural fit."

Smithson said that Reese has excellent court vision. "He sees a different game than most players see," Smithson said of Reese. "He's athletic, and I like his competitiveness."

Smithson said that Oats has been a positive influence in Reese's life, as has Reese's mother, Petra, and his uncle, Tim, who served as a father figure after Geryn's

See **Stand out**, page 19



Inkster resident Christian Young has the experience of a lifetime recently, when he and his football team traveled to Ireland through the Global Football program.

Program shows Inkster man beauty of Emerald Isle

Christian Young
Special Writer

Greenery to the left, greenery to the right. That was what we – the Adrian College football team, better known as the Bulldogs – saw on our recent sojourn to the Emerald Isle.

We were over there to have a good time, and get out of the country, of course, but the main reason that we were there was clear: we were to play a team comprised of some of the very best players in Ireland, thanks to a program named Global Football. It is an agency that takes Division III football teams to other countries. We would play out in Dublin.

We had to endure constant plane hopping and jet lag (Detroit Metro to Chicago O'Hare, then a seven-hour trip from O'Hare to London Heathrow, and finally from Heathrow to Shannon) that was probably more of a beating than one from an offensive lineman. We finally set our bags and pads down in a Best Western located in the small college town of Galway, on the country's west coast. We would remain there for four days.

We were taken on a guided tour of Ireland, with our first major stop being the Cliffs of Moher. Lush greenery overran the dipping and sloping hills, leading to a view of the river, 600 feet below. It added up to scenery that the great Renaissance artists couldn't paint a better version of. If someone wanted picture opportunities, well, this backdrop was just waiting to kiss the camera. However, one just had to make sure that they held on to their hat—literally. The wind was kicking more than a child in the mother's belly. My hat blew off my head and I had to go chase it three times!

The nightlife in Galway was all right, mainly consisting of pubs serving Guinness. There were a couple of nice clubs there, Cuba and Central Park. Naturally, we sampled it.

After an early morning practice, we split out to Connemara on the third day, taking in some more of that trademark beautiful scenery. It seemed more like a village or an old-time-town, with huts freckling the landscape.

The next day, we caught a ferry out to the famous Aran

Islands, resting our weary feet on Innis Mor (or Innishmore). The ferry kept rocking back and forth like a crib. Many of the members of the team joined in a sing-along to amuse a group of children on that boat. Rap sessions and impersonations of Jay-Z were also served up on that boat ride. Later on, many of the players would participate in a soccer game against the locals on the sands of the Innis Mor beach.

On Friday, we finally said goodbye to Galway and headed off to Dublin, stopping in the town of Bray for lunch. My meal came up to 18 euros and five cents, which would amount to about \$23.47 U.S. All that for a burger and fries?

The exchange rate for dollars was not that great. One Euro equals to about \$1.30 U.S. And many places charged upwards of four to five Euros for just a drink! So one can do the math and see how much it would be in America.

Once we arrived in Dublin, we had a brief walk through practice in game uniforms and no pads on the Greystone

See **Ireland**, page 19

Undue influence, part II Inkster coach grapples with allegations

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

It's hard to say when Dave Mann, Inkster High School's former girls' varsity basketball coach and athletic director, started to have problems with the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) regarding the undue influence policy.

Those allegations have snowballed into the forced resignation of one of the school's most decorated coaches and popular mentors.

Where did things go wrong?

Mann, oh Mann

For months now, Mann fought allegations that he contacted a parent of a Romulus 8th grade girls' basketball player in an attempt to recruit her to Inkster High School – a violation of Regulation 1, Section 10—a.k.a. Undue Influence.

However, Mann said that that is a blatant misconception of what really happened.

In 2002, Mann said Joe Brown – an Inkster alumni and former coach – approached him at an Inkster basketball game, introduced himself and asked if Mann had any summer camps or after school programs that his young daughter could take part in. At the time Mann was still fairly new to the Inkster area and school system and had not yet started any camps. The two exchanged numbers and parted ways.

During the winter of the 2003-04 school year, Brown bumped into the Mann again at an Inkster's boys' away basketball game and reintroduced himself. Mann said the two talked briefly about summer camps again for Brown's daughter and again the two parted ways.

"Actually we never really talked about camps and after school programs," Mann said. "We talked about talking about them."

Here's where the situation becomes convoluted. On Sunday August 8, 2004 – as documented by the MHSAA – a phone conversation took place between Mann and

Brown.

Brown is quoted in a Sept. 24, 2004 article in a daily newspaper that Mann called him on his cell phone. Mann vehemently denies this allegation, and said that Brown contacted him.

As it turned out, Brown's daughter, Jasmine, was about to start her freshman year at Romulus High School, something Mann said he was initially unaware of. When Brown told him, Mann responded with: "If a student is already going somewhere they should stay and finish the four years there." That's the same thing Brown quoted Mann saying in the article.

In that same article John Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA also is quoted: "The coach is wrong, no doubt about it. The call is wrong. I shouldn't comment further."

The was published on Sept. 24, 2004, but Roberts didn't start an investigation until a letter to Herb Williams, executive director of Edison Schools, dated Oct. 1, 2004.

Inkster administrators investigated the matter, too: The inspected Mann's August phone records – as requested by the state – and found no wrongdoing on Mann's part and no calls made to Brown. In a five-page letter dated Oct. 15, 2004 Howard Morris, the state-appointed financial manager of Inkster Public Schools, wrote: "Mr. (Mark) Woodson, Athletic Director at Romulus High School has indicated that he is satisfied with our investigation."

The letter stated that neither district found any evidence of violations of the undue influence policy, but Roberts stated in a letter dated Oct. 27, 2004: "On the basis of that (Morris' Oct. 15, 2004) letter, we conclude that there has been a violation of MHSAA Handbook Regulation 1, Section 10 (Undue Influence). This conclusion is based on the admission (page 2) the Mr. Mann did in fact call the parent of an 8th-grade student and did discuss athletic matters." The

See **Influence**, page 18

SPORTS

Influence - 'Coach only wanted what was best for students'

FROM PAGE 17

letter didn't state that, and Mann denies he initiated the contact.

Roberts placed the school on probationary status for one year, beginning April 15, 2005, and suspended Mann from coaching for a year, starting the same time.

After the penalties were dealt out, Woodson wrote a letter to Roberts dated Nov. 19, 2004 in Mann's defense.

"After the article...appeared in the newspaper, I had a conversation with Mr. Joe Brown," he wrote. "He stated to me that his conversation with Mr. Mann on the phone was blown out of proportion and taken out of context. Mr. Brown said at no time did Mr. Mann suggest that his daughter Jasmine Brown transfer to Inkster High School.

"It is my understanding that the administration of Inkster Public School District investigated the situation and I am satisfied with their investigation," he added.

Still, Roberts upheld his decision.

Woodson wrote a second letter, dated Dec. 17, 2004, after he met personally with Mann, Williams and Rhonda Henry, Romulus' girls' varsity basketball head coach at the time. That letter said: "We feel that the severity of this alleged incident has been exaggerated and elevated to unnecessary levels. We feel that the conversation between Mr. Brown and Dave Mann was taken out of context. We

also feel that this incident does not warrant any additional investigation."

Prior to that, Allison Earby stepped up and wrote a letter to the MHSAA regarding a conversation that she had with Brown about the article. In that letter she said Brown informed her that Mann did not try to recruit his daughter.

"Joe (Brown) emphatically stated that the way the article was written 'was not the way it was!'" she said in the letter.

Victor Deihl, a friend of Brown's for 15 years, also wrote a letter to the MHSAA dated Nov. 9, 2004 about a conversation that he had with Brown after the incident occurred.

"Joe was absolutely adamant that 'Dave (Mann) didn't do anything wrong,'" his letter said. "He (Brown) said that the information in the newspaper that Dave had contacted him was not accurate. He said the whole thing was 'blown out of proportion.'"

His letter also said that Brown didn't see what the problem was, because he and Mann never talked about a transfer.

Williams also included three letters from separate individuals with a Feb. 22, 2005 letter to Roberts. Gerald Paschal, Inkster boy's current varsity basketball coach; Steve Brooks, former Inkster boys' basketball coach (2000-2003); and Candice Finley, Romulus assistant girls' varsity basketball coach at the time, all

wrote statements that described Brown as a disgruntled parent who was unhappy in Romulus, who held very high opinions of both his son's and daughter's basketball ability and continuously hung around the Inkster gym.

With all of this new information, Roberts still didn't loosen his grip on the Inkster High School or Mann.

Brown and Roberts have not been available for comment.

Mann and Inkster administrators chose to appeal the decision, which prompted a response from Roberts in a confidential letter dated Dec. 6, 2004.

"It is my experience that your appeal will be unsuccessful," he wrote.

He was right.

Mann on the move

Even though Mann and the Inkster school administrators provided the MHSAA Executive Board Members with hundreds of pages of evidence and documentation - including all the referenced material in this article - regarding the current and past allegations, the committee still found Mann to be in violation of the undue influence policy.

Mann and Inkster school administrators had an opportunity to appeal the executive board's decision with new evidence, including Brown's cell phone records - that do not show a phone call coming in on the day Brown said the conversation took place. But Inkster felt it unnecessary to



Dave Mann

move ahead with it. Instead, Mann was given the opportunity to resign or suffer "other consequences," as Morris said in a phone conversation last month.

Regardless of the 'Joe Brown' incident, Mann has maintained a loyal support group of past and current players, parents, coaches, colleagues and acquaintances that find the allegations to be uncharacteristic of how they know Mann to be.

"I found him (Mann) to be really knowledgeable of the MHSAA rules," Paschal said. "He was always going overboard to make sure that we followed the rules."

"He did exactly the opposite of this recruiting thing the state says he's trying to do," said Lisa Tylutki, a parent who wanted to transfer her son who was then a Clinton High School basketball player. She wanted the transfer

because she was unhappy with how he was being treated by coaches, players and other students at Clinton High. "He (Mann) thought it was best for my son to stay where he was and gave me ideas on what to do to have them treat my son better. His only concern was what was better for my son - that's why I wanted to transfer there.

"I love him (Mann) dearly and wouldn't wish this upon anyone," she added. "The (MHSAA) is not messing with his life, they're messing with the lives of the kids, too."

Tylutki's son stayed at Clinton High School all four years.

"I always knew him to be above board and always doing the right thing with the kids in mind," said Dr. Dennis Rogers, the girls' varsity basketball head coach at Old Redford Academy and Benedictine High School. He has known and coached against Mann since the early '90s.

"Dave has always been good for the game and for the kids that he coached," he added.

In Mann's eyes, the board and executive director's decisions were predetermined.

"I want people to understand, and the MHSAA to recognize, that there is a difference between allegations and evidence," he said.

Next week, *Undue Influence Part 3* will look at more past allegations and to what means Dave Mann has gone to, to prove his innocence.

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SPORTS

Standout

FROM PAGE 17

father died.

Reese's three-point shooting is streaky, Smithson said.

"I'd like to make him a better shooter while he's here," he said.

Reese said that the strongest part of his game is an ability to finish especially challenging bigger players inside.

"Going inside is my favorite part of the game," he said.

Reese said that he liked the prestige of Butler's program, which he said would increase with Smithson's return as coach.

Reese's mother was also impressed by Smithson.

"I think he's a really nice guy who considers both academics and athletics," Petra Reese said.

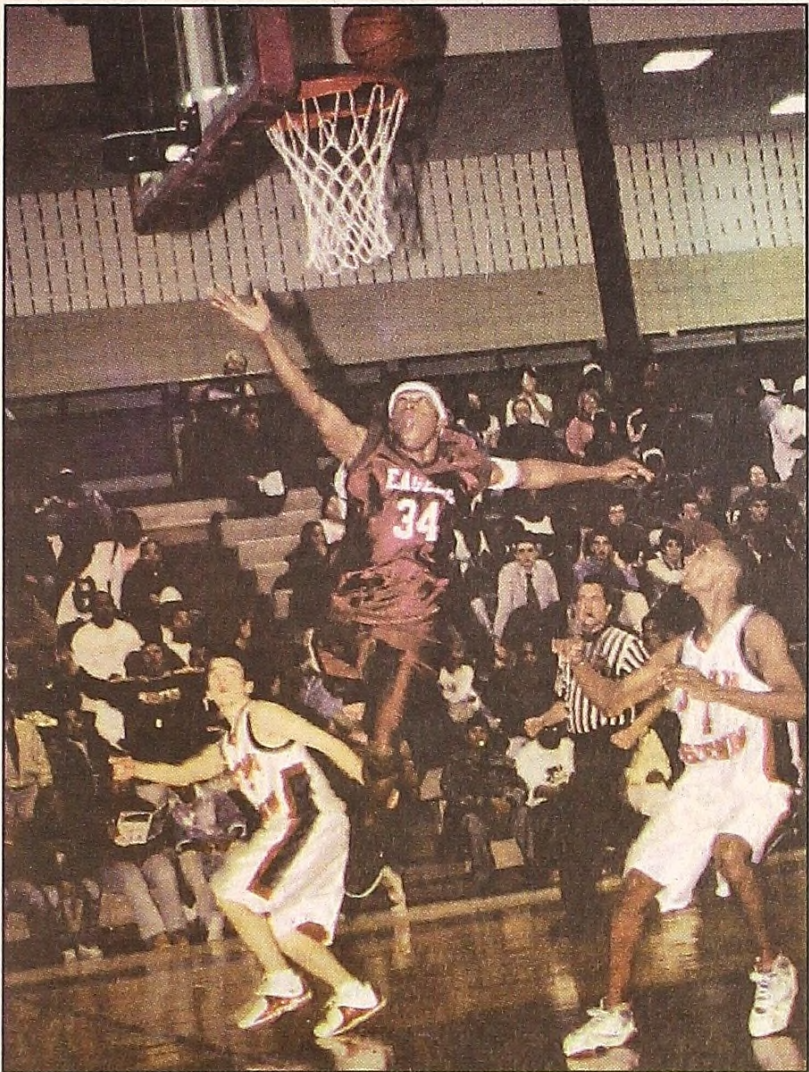
"He impressed me with his knowledge of sports and academics and how they're gearing a kid for the future, not just playing basketball."

Tim Reese, Geryn's uncle, accompanied Geryn on his campus visit and said he liked the Butler facilities.

"I liked the school," Tim Reese said. "It's a neat school. I also liked that coach Smithson was really good for that school. Everybody's excited to have him back."

That Smithson considers more than basketball for a recruit was impressive as well, Tim Reese said.

"He was interested in Geryn's



Geryn Reese (center) will play basketball next year for Butler Community College in El Dorado, KS next year.

likes and dislikes, his personal achievement goals," he said.

Smithson said that Geryn Reese should be able to adjust well and be ready to contribute significantly in the homestretch of February games.

"We're going to need him to step up right away," Smithson

said. "We'd like to put him on an accelerated process. I think Geryn likes that role. "He wants to win badly."

Editor's note: Lionel Tipton is a staff writer for the El Dorado Times. This story was reprinted with their permission.

Ireland

FROM PAGE 17

Rugby Club Field, where we would play our game. The coaches stressed execution to make sure that our knowledge of plays were sharper than a paper cut. To no one's surprise, it was.

Then, we got to experience downtown Dublin. It was far bigger than Galway, and there was a more diverse mixing of people in town, as my position coach Carl Embry would attest to.

"I didn't know that there were that many nationalities there," he said. "It seemed way more open there than it was in Galway."

While walking downtown, we saw a man make a picture of the moon and the universe, using paint, blow torches, and paper. He did it right before our eyes – and in just a few minutes!

Sunday. Game day. After breakfast, we got to the field at noon, went through the usual intense, bug-eyed warm-up, and played the game at 2 p.m. After the coin toss, the game got under way. What was there to say? We won, 53-0. Four touchdowns in the first quarter? Only two Irish first downs all game? Come on. They did threaten to score on the final drive, as the Irish quarterback continually hit his receivers – in spite of continuous pressure – to get all the way to the Bulldog 1. However, they tried to run in to finish the job and were stopped cold. It's not because the players

were a bunch of stiff.

One of my teammates, running back Jon Servoss, said, "They were pretty skilled, considering the lack of exposure to the game. In a few years, they may be really good."

Immediate post-game celebrations were filled with more food and fun than Chuck E. Cheese. We were in their headquarters smashing on some much-needed food. There were good times all around, and I even entered a freestyle battle rap contest with one of the players on the Irish team.

Later that night, we went out to the Bondi Beach nightclub, where we were treated like we were already in the NFL. People kept giving us props, buying us drinks, we danced...It was all cool.

Of course, all this had to put a dent in my wallet. Who knew that it would be so expensive to go here? I was out of cash by the time we got on the plane to go home. But all the money spent was worth its weight in gold – and euros. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything. Embry agreed.

"I feel that we had a good time. We got to see and learn a lot of things," he said. "I've never been outside of North America, so it made me appreciate a lot of things we had back home."

Same with me, Coach.

Editor's note: Christian Young is an Inkster resident attending Adrian College.

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